



Re: Status of Response to Complaint in MUR 6912
Chad Heywood
to:
jjordan
03/17/2015 03:01 AM
Cc:
fhampton
Hide Details
From: Chad Heywood <chad.heywood@azgop.org>
To: jjordan@fec.gov,
Cc: fhampton@fec.gov

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FEDERAL ELECTION
COMMISSION
2015 MAR 17 AM 9:14
CELA

1 Attachment

March 16.docx

We now have counsel. Please do not use my former email as a formal reply. Here is our formal response attached.

On Wed, Mar 11, 2015 at 7:27 AM, <jjordan@fec.gov> wrote:
Mr. Heywood:

I am the Supervisor of the Complaints Examination Division in the Office of General Counsel for the Federal Election Commission. I received your e-mail dated 2/18/15, which indicated you were waiting on retaining counsel to further respond to the allegations in the Complaint filed against the Committee. At this point, should we accept your e-mail as a formal reply or do you have additional information you want to add to the record before the General Counsel makes recommendations to the Commission?

Sincerely,

Jeff Jordan
Federal Election Commission
(202) 694-1552



Robert S. Graham
Chairman

March 16, 2015

Via Email fhampton@fec.gov

Federal Election Commission
Office of Complaints Examination
and Legal Administration
Attn: Frankie Hampton, Paralegal
999 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20436

Dear Ms. Hampton,

Thank you for forwarding a copy of MUR 6912. We will address the statements made in the order they appear in the letter.

Ms. Hildebrandt was not the only candidate for treasurer in the Arizona Republican Party election held on January 25, 2015. On that date Jonathan Lines was elected treasurer of the state party in an election conducted by the Maricopa County Elections Department, after both candidates made speeches to the state party committee members. Lines prevailed, earning 864 votes to 339 for Hildebrandt.

While Hildebrandt claims three major concerns in her letter, she lists four -- but apparently mistakenly numbers the fourth complaint with a "3."

Response to "Concern #1"

The transfers she questions were typical reimbursements -- transfers from a nonfederal account to pay the nonfederal portion of an expense allocation with at least 15 percent of the expenses allocated to the federal account, as there was no Presidential or Senate candidate on the Arizona ballot in the cycle.

Response to "Background Information"

The case in California involving Americans for Responsible Leadership was settled, and Hildebrandt's statement "Robert Graham ordered to pay..." is false and if not deliberately defamatory. There is no connection between the two entities, other than that Graham is a former board member of ARL.

Response to Concern #2

In the normal course of party business, employees use credit cards issued by our bank, in this case BMO Harris. This same bank also provided some of our merchant credit card processing services and those costs are identified in the report. Our report shows payments to BMO Harris for credit card charges with the activity identified as "admin" although "merchant fees" also appears as the purpose under both types of payment. We will discuss with counsel whether an amendment is in order to clarify which payments for administrative costs were merchant fees and which were not.

Response to Concern #3

As above, we will discuss with counsel whether to amend the report to clarify these administrative expenses.

Response to Concern #4

Hildebrandt's correspondence to the FEC is dated the same date (January 15, 2015) the party completed the amendment to our Post General report. The amendment accurately reflects incoming transfers from affiliated committees.

Conclusion

Unfortunately for all of us, Ms. Hildebrandt apparently filed her complaint to suit her own personal purposes rather than making a simple inquiry to the state party that would have cleared all this up.

Please let us know if there's any further information we can provide.

Sincerely,

Chad Heywood
Executive Director